



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1388, **Agenda Item #:** 49.

3/25/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 3 to an agreement with American Gateways for immigration legal services and deportation defense to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$210,000 to the current term ending on March 31, 2022 and to the one remaining 12-month extension option, and add one 12-month extension option in an amount not to exceed \$420,000, for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$1,815,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$420,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

February 2, 2019 - Council approved Amendment No. 1 to the agreement to increase funding in an amount to exceed \$150,000 for each remaining 12-month extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$975,000, on an 11-0 vote.

March 22, 2018 - Council approved the initial agreement with American Gateways in an amount not to exceed \$135,000 for the 12-month period beginning April 1, 2018, with up to four 12-month extension options not to exceed \$60,000 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$375,000, on a 9-1 vote with Council Member Troxclair voting nay and Council Member Pool absent.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Assistant Director, Health Equity and Community Engagement Division, 972-5167; Laura LaFuente, Contract Management Unit Supervisor, 512-972-5077; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5045.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

August 21, 2018 - the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission passed a recommendation for an additional \$150,000 of ongoing funding for immigration legal services to be included in the Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 City of Austin Operating Budget.

Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 3 to an agreement with American Gateways for immigration legal services and deportation defense to increase funding in an amount not to exceed \$210,000 to the current term and to the one remaining 12-month extension option, and add one 12-month extension option in an amount not to exceed \$420,000, for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$1,815,000.

Amendment No. 2 exercised the second 12-month extension option through March 31, 2021. Amendment No. 1 renewed the agreement for 12 months and increased funding in an amount of \$150,000 per year, expanding deportation defense and legal services through a universal representation model. Through this expansion, American Gateways provided outreach and legal education services to the Asian immigrant population in Austin/Travis County.

This Agreement was a part of a solicitation released on January 5, 2018 for the purpose of establishing an agreement with a qualified nonprofit or governmental entity for immigration legal services to include, but not be limited to services for removal defense clients, Deferred Action Against Childhood Arrivals (DACA) clients, asylum seekers, Violence Against Women Act petitions, U-Visa seekers, T-Visa seekers, and/or clients pursuing permanent residency. Of the two applications received, American Gateways had the highest score and was awarded for a 12-month term beginning April 1, 2018 with four 12-month extension options. Funding for this agreement included \$60,000 in annual funding as well as \$75,000 in one-time funding for the first year.

Through multiple Council actions, the City has invested in immigration legal services and other inclusive services specifically for the immigrant community. During the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget adoption process, Council increased the City's investment for immigration legal services.

American Gateways was founded in 1987 as the Political Asylum Project of Austin to help refugees fleeing war in Central America. They have offices in Austin, San Antonio, and Waco, serving 20 Texas counties and four detention centers located in Hutto, Pearsall, Karnes, and Dilley. They provide culturally sensitive, trauma-informed legal representation and education to low-income immigrants.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.